

File 179

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	Career NCO's in the Czechoslovak Air Force	DATE DISTR.	30 December 1954
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REPORT NO.

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DATE DISTR. 29 Oct 1954

SUBJECT Career NCO's in the Czechoslovak
Air Force

NO. OF PAGES 7

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Qualifications Necessary for Career NCO's

5. [redacted] men serving their compulsory two years who were selected could apply to become career NCO's. [redacted] did not know when the applications were to be submitted (whether at the completion of basic training or toward the end of the compulsory service term).

50X1 [redacted] the
50X1 unit political officer handled [redacted] applications and [redacted] such offi-
50X1 cers urged politically reliable and exemplary airmen to become
50X1 career men.

6.

50X1 [redacted] reenlistments could be made for two
50X1 or five-year periods. In general, it was expected that career men
50X1 would eventually be commissioned through the successful completion
50X1 of various specialized schools, which they had ample opportunity to
attend.

Pay Scale

7. [redacted] pay scales for other career NCO's. [redacted] of
50X1 the grade of sergeant [redacted] amounted to 850 crowns base pay per
50X1 month. Conscript sergeants drew about 80 crowns per month,

8. Career NCO's received additional pay depending on the type of job
50X1 they were performing. [redacted]
50X1 [redacted] a sergeant first class, received a
50X1 base pay of 900 crowns per month, additional pay as a line chief of
50X1 120 crowns, a quarter's allowance of 60 crowns, and a subsistence
allowance of 220 crowns. [redacted]
50X1 [redacted]

Job Assignments

9. [redacted] career NCO's were assigned to
50X1 various key positions, i.e., line chiefs, flight chiefs, supply
50X1 sergeants, mess sergeants, flight control tower operators, and
50X1 first aid station supervisors. [redacted]
[redacted]

Special Privileges

10. Each man who entered the career service was automatically promoted to sergeant, the lowest grade in the career service. In the event a former compulsory-service EM attained the rank of private first class before becoming a career EM, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant. In case an individual attained a rank of sergeant first class during his compulsory service, he retained that rank as a career NCO.

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11. Single career NCO's had the option of either living in the bachelor billets, which housed both them and the single officers, or they could draw 60 crowns a month for rental allowances and rent quarters in town. Some of the career NCO's [redacted] rented rooms in private homes. The air force authorities did not help in locating such rooms. They had to be secured by the individual. There were no private family quarters for career NCO's at the Brno-Slatina airbase. All of the married career NCO personnel lived in private houses in nearby communities. [redacted] the married career NCO's and officers received higher quarter allowances than bachelor officers and career NCO's, as well as an additional allowance for children [redacted]

12. Career NCO's ate in the officers' mess halls.

13. At Brno-Slatina airbase [redacted] career NCO's were expected to be present at their duty posts from 0730 to 1430 hours daily, except Sunday. [redacted] the compulsory-service EM were [redacted] always on duty except when they received a pass as an award for an exemplary performance of duty.)

14. In addition to having Sunday off, career NCO's were entitled to one other day off every two weeks. Their total annual leave was 21 days; the same as for officers. Compulsory service EM received no leaves, except in the case of serious illness or death in their immediate family.

15. [redacted]

16. Career NCO's did not have to participate in drills. However, they had to attend political indoctrination lectures about twice weekly. Such lectures were conducted separately for the career NCO's and compulsory-service EM.

17. After duty hours, career NCO's were permitted to wear civilian clothes, if they so desired. They were told not to associate with compulsory-service EM in order to keep up their prestige. This point was stressed by the instructors at various classes and meetings.

18. It was against the regulations at all air force bases and schools for men to take alcoholic beverages to the barracks. This was applicable to both career NCO's and compulsory-service EM. However, beer was sold at the canteen. [redacted]

[redacted] In the event that a career NCO reported for work in an intoxicated condition, he was usually told to lie down for a few hours, and then return to duty. No disciplinary action was taken.

Uniforms

19. Career NCO uniforms were identical with those of career air force officers in style, material, and color. Both included garrison caps and Sam Browne belts with a plain buckle, and both classes were issued pistols. The only difference was in rank insignia.

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20. By contrast, all compulsory service EM, including NCO's, wore field caps, belts with an embossed Czech lion on a brass buckle and were issued the 9-mm. CZ SMG. (The sole exception was that all crew chiefs, regardless of whether they were career airmen or draftees, were issued pistols.)
21. Career NCO's wore plain light blue collar flashes on their service coat lapels. Officers wore insignia known as the "Czech battle hammers" on their flashes. The compulsory service EM did not wear any collar flashes.
22. There were no other special insignia, such as "hash marks" or stripes, to show that an individual was a career NCO.
23. Officers and career NCO's in the air force were issued leather overcoats. Some coats were brown, others, light blue. These leather overcoats had shoulder loops, over which the shoulderboards with the insignia of rank were attached, and removable flannel linings for cold weather wear. The brown leather overcoats were permitted to be worn with civilian clothes, but the shoulderboards had to be removed.
24. following clothing issued to Czechoslovak air force career NCO's:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	Overcoat	Blue	Wool	New one issued every three years.
1	Topcoat	Blue	Gabardine	New one issued every three years.
1	Raincoat	Green	Oilskin	Basis of issue unknown
1	Overcoat	Blue	Coarse wool	A work overcoat of same design as issued to compulsory EM for dress and service wear.
1	Overcoat	Light blue or brown	Goat skin	This overcoat had a removable flannel lining.
1	Garrison cap	Blue	Gabardine	New one issued every two years.
1	Blouse, uniform, dress	Blue	Gabardine	New one issued every two years.
1 pr.	Trousers, uniform, dress	Blue	Gabardine	New ones issued every two years.
1 pr.	Trousers, work	Blue	Coarse wool	Issued as a work uniform. Of same design as those issued to compulsory-service EM.
1	Sam Browne Belt	Brown	Leather	Basis of issue unknown.
4	Shirts	Light blue	Cotton	Four issued every year.

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<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
2	Ties	Black	Cotton	New one issued every year.
5	Handkerchiefs	White	Cotton	Five issued every year.
Unknown	Drawers	White	Cotton	Basis of issue unknown (undershirts not worn).
5 pr.	Socks	Blue	Nylon	Five pairs issued every year.
2 pr.	Shoes	Black	Leather	Two pairs issued every year. Two extra pairs of half soles were also issued every year; however, the career NCO's had to pay for the resoling of their shoes, while shoe repair for compulsory-service EM was done free through unit supply.
1 pr.	Service shoes	Black	Leather	Issued for work. Unit property.
5	Towels	White	Cotton	New ones issued every year.
1 pr.	Gloves, dress	Blue	Flannel	New pair issued every two years.

50X1 Fatigues were unit property. They were one piece coveralls of cotton material, either green, dark blue, or white. When they were soiled, they were exchanged for a clean set through unit supply.

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Identification Cards

25. Career airmen were issued a document approximately six by nine centimeters, made out of a rose-colored stiff paper. The document was generally referred to as a "prukazka" (identification) card (Annex A). It was a single card, which the airmen usually kept in a transparent, privately purchased cover to keep it in a neat condition.

26. 50X1 50X1

50X1 . Upon trans-
fer of an individual to another unit or airbase, his old "prukazka" was turned in and another one was issued by the new unit.

27. 50X1

28. 50X1 50X1

50X1 Whenever a member of the armed forces desired to pay a visit to someone stationed at a Czechoslovak airbase or military installation other than his own, he had to make a request to the OD or the sergeant of the guard of that installation. At the gate guardhouse, the name of the visitor was registered and a runner (spojka) accompanied him to contact the desired individual. The runner remained near the visitor and escorted him back to the gate upon completion of his business.

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Career NCO's in the 3rd Fighter Regt. in October 1953

29. [redacted] all the male career NCO's
50X1 in his regiment had already completed a minimum of two to three
50X1 years of career service.

Female Career NCO's

30. [redacted] there were 10 female career NCO's, including
one sergeant first class and nine sergeants. The sergeant first
class was a meteorologist with two years of service. Of the nine
sergeants, five were telephone operators, two were clerks, one was
a medical assistant at the regimental first aid station and one was
a meteorologist. All of the sergeants had from two to three months
of service.
31. All females in the Czechoslovak military service were volunteers.
After basic training and some specialized course of their choice,
they were given the rating of sergeant, which was the lowest career
service rank.
32. The air force female career NCO's received their basic training at
Zambersk ^N 50-06, E 16-287. Length and details of such training
50X1 were not known [redacted] Upon completion of basic training, the
50X1 EW attended specialist courses such as clerical, medical assistant,
50X1 telephone operator and meteorologist. [redacted]
50X1 location of the specialist schools. [redacted]
33. [redacted]
50X1 [redacted] one of the female sergeants [redacted] was
50X1 16 years old. [redacted] the other nine female career NCO's
50X1 were between 16 and 18.
34. Female NCO's of the Czechoslovak Air Force had uniforms similar to
those worn by the male career NCO's except that they wore skirts
and berets and were not issued leather overcoats.
35. The 10 female NCO's stationed at Brno-Slatina airbase did not
constitute a separate unit, but were part of several units.
36. [redacted]
50X1 [redacted]
37. [redacted] several
50X1 female officers in the city of Brno. They were lieutenants and
50X1 senior lieutenants. [redacted]
50X1 some were members of ground forces, while some
50X1 belonged to the air force. [redacted]
50X1 There were no female officers
50X1 stationed at Brno-Slatina airbase [redacted]
50X1 [redacted]
50X1 [redacted]

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ANNEX:

A. Personal Identification Card (Prukazka)

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Annex A

Personal Identification Card (Prukazka)

Obverse

PRUKAZ VOJAKA

(Rank)

(Surname)

(First name)

Unit Seal

9 cm

6 cm

Color: Rose

Approximate size

Reverse

Photograph of bearer

(Signature of bearer)

Unit Seal

(Signature of issuing officer)

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